

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented) A shut-down circuit configured for use with an electronic ballast coupled to a lamp in a control path, the circuit comprising:  
a device for sensing electrical energy associated with the control path;  
an electrical circuit for shutting down the ballast in the event that the sensed energy contains high-frequency noise indicative of arcing, including arcing caused by lamp installation or removal; and  
electronic componentry to disable the electrical circuit for shutting down the ballast, during initial energization of the lamp, with a time constant independent of the circuit for shutting down.

2. – 4. (previously cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the device for sensing the electrical energy associated with the control path is an optical isolator.

6. – 9. (previously cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. – 24. (previously cancelled)

25. – 32. (cancelled)

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